

Northwest Democrats News



DEC, 2016
Volume 20 Issue 12

Northwest Democrats, P.O. Box 681911, San Antonio, TX 78268; TXIconoclast@gmail.com

2015-2016 OFFICERS

Chair

Jacob Middleton

867-6338

Vice-Chair

Esmeralda Rodriguez

Secretary

Brenda Middleton

Treasurer

Roger Herr

Program Director

Barbara Moschner

Special Projects

Gene Marck

273-9201

Communications

Ruth Stewart

Past Chair

Joyce Dorrycott

680-5701

U.S. Capitol

1-202-224-3121

Joaquin Castro

1-202-225-3236

December 17th Program:

GUEST: Roger Herr, CEO of Why Not Consulting, will be presenting the statistical information about the election results in Bexar county. He will also have information about the overall election trends. Please join us for this important meeting at 8:30 am, Luby's at Huebner and Floyd Curl.

DECEMBER SPECIAL PROJECT: Warrior and Family Support Center

The Warrior and Family Support Center provides for warriors who have incurred service-connected injuries or illnesses on or after September 11, 2001. The center also provides support for these families who suddenly find they are serving as full-time supporters or care-givers. The items needed include: diapers, gift cards, small bags of chips (kid lunch size), small boxes of cereal (school breakfast size), fruit (distributed right away), baked goods (cookies, cupcakes). Gene will be taking our contributions to the center during the week. He would enjoy showing you the facilities. Contact Gene, 210-273-9201 if you like to go with him or you have any questions.

Authorized & Paid for by the Northwest Democrats

To submit an article or other info, email Jacob Middleton at:
TXIconoclast@gmail.com

A Few JOYCE Words:

In late March 1992, Don and I attended the 26th Senatorial District Convention held at the Leon Valley Community Center. Darby Riley, an old friend, was in charge. At the close of the meeting, Darby asked all of us what we thought of starting a Democratic organization in the northwest area and asked those of us who were interested to come up to the front and sign up. Don and I did and thus became charter members of what would be called "Northwest Democrats". Darby Riley would later become our first chair.

The group began meeting at Luby's on Bandera, just west of Loop 410 (it is no longer there). We chose to meet at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday mornings since that was when most of us were free to attend. In the spring of 1994, the group conducted a phone bank for Democratic candidates. Don and I attended when we could as we were busy running a campaign for a Democratic candidate for Attorney General in both the spring and fall.

By 1996, we became more active - something that Don continued until his death, and, still continues for me. Lloyd Phillips was the chair that year, and I was later asked to be the vice chair. I accepted and thus began a 20 year experience as an officer of the organization. It has been an incredible adventure. At my first executive committee meeting, we voted to establish our first dues and a small charge for meetings to pay for the breakfast Luby's served and a small amount to pay for our newsletters.

It was in 1996 that we started our first outreach of directly contacting voters with information about our candidates. We had no money, so we held a garage sale at the Morales' home in their yard and raised over \$900 to begin our work. Our first effort was to put together a door to door walk effort. We got walk lists from the Democratic Party, collected literature from as many candidates as would provide it to us, purchased plastic bags that we could hang on doors, and met at our home on Friday evenings to bag literature for delivery on Saturday morning. We divided the precinct lists into walk lists of about 150 houses and met in front of Luby's to begin our walks on Saturdays. By the time the election came in November, we had walked 25,000 houses.

In 1998, I was elected chair, and we repeated our walk efforts, delivering literature door to door, and watched our organization grow. We held our first Super Bowl in 1998, an activity we held every year till it was determined to discontinue it, beginning in 2017. I served as chair through 2002. We had our first office in 2000, when David Leibowitz offered us the opportunity to use an office he had on the access road of I-10. We have continued having an office each two years to provide this area of the city with information about our Democratic candidates.

A Few JOYCE Words continued:

Later we met to write our bylaws, deciding not to take sides as an organization in Democratic primaries, establishing our officers and their duties and terms, determined the boundaries where we would work and provide for elections every two years. Because we worked in the northwest area where Democrats were far outnumbered by Republicans, we decided to do more than engage in Democratic activities, but to also become part of the community. For many years we cleaned Eckhert Road once a quarter. We have community service projects almost every month. We no longer collect literature but began in 2008 to publish our own newspaper which contains short bios of every Democratic candidate in the county. We pay for the newspaper by taking ads from those candidates who wish to participate. We established the organization's official name as Northwest Democrats of Bexar County but are known as just Northwest Democrats.

One of our most successful activities has been our dinner each August to honor someone who served our community or our organization. The funds raised are used for our general election efforts each two years. Most of our elected officials attend as do many of our members. It is such an entertaining evening, and we all look forward to it each year.

From 2002-2006, Carrie Willborn served as our chair. I returned in 2006 and served until 2008. Jacob Middleton was elected in 2008 and has served continuously as chair through this December. I will go off the board this December, ending 20 continuous years of serving the organization in one capacity or another.

This March, Northwest Democrats will be 25 years old. This will be a very special year. Not many political organizations stay active for so long or work so hard for Democratic candidates. During these years we have watched the Democratic vote in our area grow. One candidate once told us that as he watches the votes come in on election night, he knew that Pct. 1 would come in Democratic; Precinct 3 would come in Republican; but he watched for the area in the northwest for that was the area that would put him over the top. You can't hope for a better reputation than that.



2017 MEMBERSHIP

Membership dues **\$30/year** (Family membership)

We will begin collecting 2017 dues at this meeting. If you receive the newsletter by mail and we do not have your dues paid by January 31, 2017, you will not receive a February newsletter. This is our 25th Anniversary and you'll want to be included in all the special events.

New Proposed Executive Committee

Listed below are the proposed officers for 2017-2018:

Chair: Esmeralda Rodriguez

Vice Chair: Barbara Moschner

Secretary: Brenda Middleton

Treasurer: Roger Herr

We will also accept nominations from the floor for these positions on December 17. If you have any questions about qualifications to be an officer, please contact Jacob Middleton, 210-867-6338. The positions of Program, Special Projects, Communications are all volunteer positions, and as such, do not need to be sworn into office. Barbara Moschner, Gene Marck, and Ruth Stewart have all agreed to continue serving. All of these proposed officers and volunteers would appreciate your help. Just give them your contact information and what you can do to keep Northwest Democrats a vibrant and successful organization.

A REFLECTION

Even though the presidential election did not go our way, Northwest Democrats was 100% successful in all the Democratic races that our area of the city covers. I'd say, "PDG for a volunteer organization."

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

People in the “know” (staffers in the Washington D.C. legislative offices) have said the most effective way of communicating your approval or disapproval of pending legislation is through telephone calls to their offices.

Listed below are important telephone numbers for Democratic legislators. Please make your voices heard. Remember that Democratic voters are the majority in the country. Remember that Hillary received 2.5 million more votes than the Republican candidate. I know if we put our minds to it, we can be just as loud and obnoxious as the conservatives.

The White House Switchboard
1-202-456-1111

U.S. Capitol Switchboard
1-202-224-3121

Senator Charles E. Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
322 Hart Senate Office Building
1-202-224-6542

Representative Joaquin Castro
1-202-225-3236

Northwest Democrats
P.O. BOX 681911
San Antonio, TX 78268-1911

IMPORTANT DATES

December 17 Northwest Democrats Meeting

December 19—
December 30 NISD Winter Break

December 24—
January 1, 2017 Hanukkah

December 25 Christmas

January 1 New Year's Day

January 21 Northwest Democrats Meeting